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Executive	Registry
17 AUG 19	OLC #78-31975 \$1

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Attorney General Bell, 17 August 1978

- 1. The Attorney General agreed that our OLCs should get together and schedule the meeting between him, myself, Boland, Aspin and Wilson.
- 2. On the language put in the Justice Department appropriations bill by the SAC, the Attorney General has no objection to our continuing to work with Senator Hollings. He says our OLCs should work together also to get that taken out in conference.
- 3. On the Agee legislation, he says that his man at the hearings in the House Select Committee yesterday made an improper statement that we could not sue. He's having that reviewed right now with the thought that we perhaps can sue. I told him also I'd be sending him a letter with some thoughts as to how we could proceed on the legislative route here.

STANSFIELD TURNER	25X1
Director	

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In touch with		# # # 18 有
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Called , OGC, to also of status of justice Dept. Touch with yetting lack in touch with told g. C. I was trying to follow up on action term #300 OLC #78-2973/1 - \$17aug 78.

G.C. told me that letter had been sent ! See attach ment > No condenation of OLC.

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Ored For Release 2004/05/05: CIA-RDP81M00980R000700110041-8 Office of the Attorney General

Washington, A. C. 20530

August 25, 1978

06C 78-574 8-29.78

Executive Registry

Admiral Stansfield Turner Director Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

In response to your letter to the Attorney General of August 17, 1978, the Attorney General asked me to send you a copy of his directive to the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel. As you requested, the Attorney General asked John Harmon to direct an interagency effort to draft legislation dealing with the problem of unauthorized disclosure of the identities of United States intelligence officers.

The Attorney General agrees with you that this matter should be handled expeditiously. John Harmon will contact your counsel's office about this matter soon.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Frederick D. Baron Special Assistant to the Attorney General

cc: The Attorney General
Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel

EY GENERAPPROVED FOR Release 2004/05/05 : CIA-RDP81M00980R00070011004158278-5806 8-31-70

ttorney General

r, A. C. 20530

4, 1978

General Counsel's office To: CIA

Attached is the copy of the Attorney General's directive that was not attached to Frederick Baron's letter to Admiral Turner dated 8/25/78.

orney General al Counsel

ion: DCI Request

quest in the attached letter ating someone in your office rt to draft legislation dealing zed disclosure of the hce officers. Your office ne Criminal Division on this tative from the Criminal e drafting effort.

idled expeditiously. Please no later than September 8.

Philip B. Heymann cc: Assistant Attorney General Criminal Division



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8-3177

Office of the Attorney General Washington, A. C. 20530

August 24, 1978

MEMORANDUM TO:

John M. Harmon

Assistant Attorney General Office of Legal Counsel

FROM

Griffin B. Bell Attorney General

G-B13

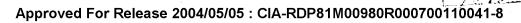
SUBJECT

Leak Legislation: DCI Request

Please respond to the request in the attached letter from Admiral Turner by designating someone in your office to direct an interagency effort to draft legislation dealing with the problem of unauthorized disclosure of the identities of U. S. intelligence officers. Your office should consult closely with the Criminal Division on this project and invite a representative from the Criminal Division to participate in the drafting effort.

This matter should be handled expeditiously. Please report to me on your progress no later than September 8.

cc: Philip B. Heymann
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division



Washington, D.C. 20503.

17 AUG 1978

Honorable Griffin B. Bell Attorney General Department of Justice Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Griffin:

I am writing to urge your support of a limited legislative initiative having as its objective protection under law of a narrow category of national security information that I believe to be inadequately protected by existing statutes. The category of information to which I refer consists of classified information concerning the identity of CIA officers or agents, and their relationships with CIA. I am sure you will agree that this sort of information ranks close to the top on any sensitivity scale, and that it is at the innermost core of what must be protected against disclosure if an effective clandestine intelligence service is to be maintained.

I am not suggesting of course that there are no existing laws dealing with the unauthorized disclosure of this category of information. I am satisfied, for example, that in classic espionage situations, where the information is communicated in a clandestine fashion to an agent of a foreign power, the conduct is punishable under 18 U.S.C. §794. However, equally damaging effects occur where the information is published in an attributed article or book, or otherwise placed in the public domain by persons not necessarily engaged in clandestine intelligence activities. It is in these latter situations that the law is weak and unclear at best and altogether inapplicable at worst.

The recent actions of Philip Agee make a particular distressing case in point. As you know, Mr. Agee has made a practice over the last few years of exposing Agency personnel and operations whenever and wherever possible. He is now involved in the publication of a second book, Dirty Work:

The CIA in Western Europe, which according to its advance promotions will include "detailed biographies of more than 700 undercover CIA and NSA personnel lurking in embassies

CEXECUTIVE RESISIRY FILE

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and silitary installations in virtually every corner of the least in has also been instrumental interest. He has also been instrumental interest is a group that interest of Release 2004/05/05; CIA-RDP81/100980R006/06001004f-8a group that interest is a few periodical known as the covert action Information Bulletin." It is evident from the first issue of this journal, dated July 1978, that the purpose is not merely criticism of CIA, which is certainly a protected form of speech, but also a systematic disclosure of the names of Agency personnel, which in my view is a form of speech that Congress can properly regulate, at least to the extent of legislating criminal sanctions that would be cation. A copy of this first issue is enclosed for your review.

I deeply appreciate the personal consideration that you gave to the question of obtaining an order restraining the publication of <u>Dirty Work</u>. I also appreciate the fact that you have referred the entire matter to the Criminal Division. Here again, however, the trouble is that the available legal tools are very probably inadequate. I am told that the only two statutes that arguably cover the conduct involved are 18 U.S.C. §793(d) and (e), and that the applicability of these statutes is highly questionable.

There is reason to believe that the Congress would be responsive to a narrow piece of anti-disclosure legislation, if the Administration were to bring forward an appropriate agreed proposal. A readiness to consider such a proposal was evident yesterday at an informal hearing before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence attended by members of your staff. In addition, a bill introduced in 1977 by Senator Bentsen, S. 1578, a copy of which is enclosed, has attracted a good deal of sympathetic attention in light of Mr. Agee's recent ventures.

One idea, and certainly the simplest one, would be to propose an amendment to an existing statute, namely, 18 U.S.C. §798. As you are aware, that statute was enacted without controversy in 1950. It proscribes the unauthorized disclosure, including publication, of classified information concerning cryptographic systems, cryptographic or communications intelligence equipment, or communications intelligence activities. I am enclosing a marked-up copy of this statute showing one way in which it might be amended in order to extend its coverage to the narrow category of additional information that is my greatest immediate concern. There are of course alternative ideas, such as Senator Bentsen's bill or some modified version of that Obviously there is room for divergent views as to the best approach, but I think it is critically important that we face and resolve any differences and put forward a concrete Administration proposal.

For Release 2004/05/05 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000700110041-8

Yours,

GTANSFIELD TURNER

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Enclosures

cc: Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Secretary of State

Director, Office of Management and Budget

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